

$$N^{(i)} = \alpha N^{(i-1)} + (1-\alpha)S,$$

where α may be in the range $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$, but is further constrained to the range $0.8 \leq \alpha \leq 0.95$ in the preferred embodiment of the invention."

This portion of Bloebaum et al clearly teaches smoothing of the vector N from noise model adaption block 46 as a function of the prior noise vector N and the power spectral density S. This is not smoothing the power estimate as claimed. Note particularly that both this application and Bloebaum et al teach that the noise estimate and the power estimate/power spectral density differ. The Applicants respectfully submit that the only smoothing of the power spectral density S disclosed in Bloebaum et al is at column 5, lines 60 to 62, which states:

"The Variance Reduction block receives as input $|S(e^{j\omega})|^2$ and applies a smoothing function in the frequency domain to generate an output $|S^{\wedge}(e^{j\omega})|^2$. "

The Applicants respectfully submit that this smoothing of the power spectral density S in the frequency domain cannot make obvious the smoothing "over time" recited in claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, claims 1 and 9 are allowable over Bloebaum et al.

Claims 1 and 9 recite further subject matter not made obvious by Bloebaum et al. Claim 1 recites "adding the sampled speech signal to a portion of the speech signal of a previous frame.". Claim 9 recites that the noise suppression circuit operates to "add the sampled speech signal to a portion of the speech signal of a previous frame." The Applicants respectfully submit that Bloebaum et al fails to make obvious this adding of the "sampled speech signal" and the "speech signal of a previous frame." Neither the OFFICE ACTION of August 29, 2002 nor FINAL REJECTION point out where Bloebaum et al makes obvious this subject matter. Paragraph

5 of page 4 of the FINAL REJECTION argues that this subject matter is obvious. Firstly, this argument presents no evidence of obviousness. If this subject matter is so well known as implied by paragraph 5, the Examiner would be able to cite one or more references to support this assertion. This limitation appeared in claims 1 and 9 as originally filed, therefore the Examiner has had ample opportunity to find and cite such a reference. Secondly, the references to "half the frame duration," "half-period" and "half-frame" does not make obvious the "previous frame" recited in claims 1 and 9. Thus claims 1 and 9 are allowable over Bloebaum et al.

Claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 are allowable by dependency upon allowable base claims.

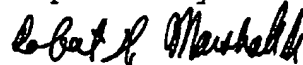
The Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this amendment. Entry of this amendment is proper at this time because the amendment serves only to clarify subject matter previously recited. Thus no new search or reconsideration is required.

The Applicants respectfully submit that all the present claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore early entry of this amendment, reconsideration and advance to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Note inserted text is marked by underlining and deleted text is marked by ~~strikeout~~.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 6, 14 and 17 to 22.